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NEWS RELEASE

U.S. presents the Netherlands \$3 million from joint drug investigation

U.S. Ambassador Timothy Broas tonight at his residence in The Hague turned over a 3 million-dollar share of money seized from narcotics traffickers to the Ministry of Security and Justice, the Office of the National Public Prosecutor and the National Police of the Netherlands for their assistance in a joint drug investigation, "Operation Pac Rim."

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) began Operation Pac Rim in September 2009. This three-year investigation, led by HSI with support from international partners, including the Netherlands, Mexico, and Colombia, resulted in a seizure of more than \$175 million dollars in cash, \$850 million dollars in property worldwide, 37 indictments, and 26 convictions.

During the course of the investigation, HSI special agents identified €6 million Euros that had been stashed somewhere in the Netherlands. This money was derived from international narcotics trafficking by one of the largest drug cartels in the world. The National Police of the Netherlands assisted HSI in locating and seizing the cash, which prevented one of the largest drug cartels in the world from profiting from its criminal activity.

"This seizure would not have been possible without the close and excellent cooperation with our Dutch law enforcement counterparts. Together, we were able to dismantle a billion-dollar drug cartel. And tonight we celebrate our success and split the proceeds," said Ambassador Broas.

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